

Remarks

In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 129-154 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ross in view of Suman. In addition, the Examiner rejected the same claims as being allegedly unpatentable over Blaker in view of Suman. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

I. Previous Office Action and Response

In traversing the Examiner's rejections, a summary of the previous office Action (mailed on August 14, 2002) and applicant's Second Amendment (mailed on November 19, 2002) responsive thereto is provided as follows:

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 129-154 as being allegedly unpatentable over Ross. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 129-132, 134-141, 143-150, and 152-154 as being allegedly unpatentable over Blaker. The Examiner also rejected claims 133, 142 and 151 as being allegedly unpatentable over Blaker in view of DeGraaf.

In response to the previous Office Action, applicant submitted the Second Amendment, in which applicant amended, among others, independent claims 129, 137 and 146 to overcome Ross, Blaker and DeGraaf.

II. Response to the Present Office Action

In the present Office Action, the Examiner admittedly "agrees with Applicant" that "the prior art references [i.e., Ross, Blaker and DeGraaf] do not satisfy the two conditions" required in the claimed invention. Page 5 of the present Office Action.

Nevertheless, the Examiner cited a new reference Suman, and in particular Figs. 41 and 43, and columns 33-36 therein to reject the claimed invention. However, the relevant portions of Suman cited by the Examiner are duplicative of Blaker, which, the

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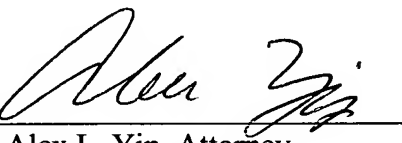
Examiner admitted, had been overcome by applicant. Specifically, Figs. 41 and 43 of Suman correspond to Figs. 1(a) and 4 of Blaker. The relevant text of Suman at col. 33, line 23 through col. 35, line 56 corresponds to the text of Blaker at col. 2, lines 16-59 and col. 4, line 6 through col. 5, line 58.¹

Because the Examiner has not presented new material to reject the claimed invention, and because the Examiner agreed that applicant had overcome the cited art including Blaker (same as Suman for all intents and purposes here), all of the present rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 129-137, 139-146 and 148-154 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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Enclosures

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Although the Examiner also cited col. 36 of Suman, it is, however, directed to vehicle personalization and remote control functions which is not applicable to the claimed invention.